

Iowa Crops & Weather



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For the month of February, 2006

WARM, DRY CONDITIONS

Agricultural Summary: Most areas of Iowa reported above average temperatures with below normal precipitation during February. Consequently, concerns about future pest populations remain. Lack of moisture remains a concern with Spring arriving soon. Some reports of manure hauling were received. Corn continues to move, especially to local ethanol plants.

At the end of February, the average depth of **snow cover** across Iowa was visibly zero inches, equivalent to the same time last year. The average depth of **frost penetration** for the state was 4 inches, compared to last year's 7 inches. **Soil moisture availability** was rated 25 percent very short, 38 percent short, 35 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. **Movement of grain** for the state was 24 percent none, 43 percent light, 30 percent moderate, and 3 percent heavy.

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was 7 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 21 percent surplus. **Quality of hay and roughage supplies** was 5 percent poor, 36 percent fair, and 59 percent good. **Utilization of stubble fields for grazing** rated 32 percent none, 25 percent limited, 28 percent moderate, and 15 percent extensive.

Hog and pig losses in January were about the same as last year's state averages at 25 percent below average, 69 percent average, and 6 percent above average. **Cattle and calf losses** were below last year's state averages at 32 percent below average, 65 percent average, and 3 percent above average. Generally, the warm, dry weather has been favorable for livestock producers.

IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY FEBRUARY 2006

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 24.8 degrees or 0.6 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 0.33 inches or 0.65 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 50th warmest and 12th driest February among 134 years of state records. This was Iowa's driest month since December 2002 and driest February since 1996.

Temperatures. The very mild weather pattern that began in late December continued into the first three days of February with

temperatures reaching 62 degrees at Indianola on the 2nd. The statewide average daily temperature finally fell below normal on February 4, breaking a string of 44 consecutive warmer than normal days. Temperatures fell below zero at a few central Iowa locations on the morning of February 9 with a -8 degrees reading at Webster City. Mild weather briefly returned at mid-month with 67 degrees highs recorded on Valentine's Day at Little Sioux and Glenwood. However, the coldest weather of the winter came on the 17th and 18th. Estherville reported a wind chill of -38 degrees on the morning of the 17th (-59 degrees using the old wind chill formula in use prior to 2001). Elkader reported an actual temperature of -26 degrees on the morning of the 18th. This was Iowa's lowest temperature recorded since Christmas Day 2000. Finally, very mild weather returned late in the month with Glenwood reaching 69 degrees on the 27th.

Heating Degree Days. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 2 percent less than normal but 18 percent greater than last February. Heating requirements thus far this heating season (since July 1, 2005) are running 12 percent less than normal and 1 percent less than last season.

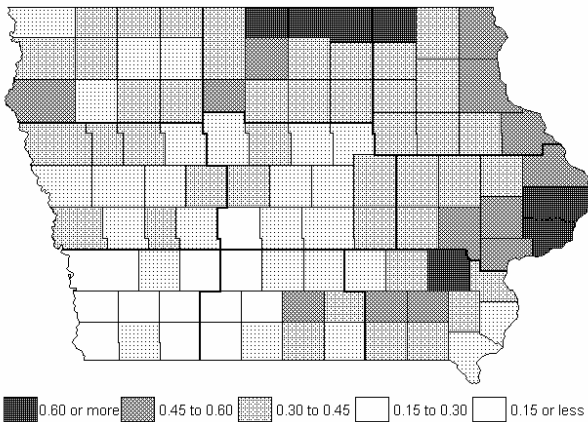
Precipitation. Monthly precipitation totals were below normal throughout the state. Preliminary totals varied from only a trace (less than 0.01 inch) at Bedford to 0.92 inches at De Witt. Record low February totals were established at the following locations:

Location	Feb. 2006	Old Feb. Record	Years of Record
Bedford	Trace	0.11	1979 98
Beaconsfield	0.01	0.03	1970 51
Sidney	0.02	0.04	1977 64
Mount Ayr	0.03	0.05	1917 110
Red Oak	0.05	0.05	1904 & 1970 91

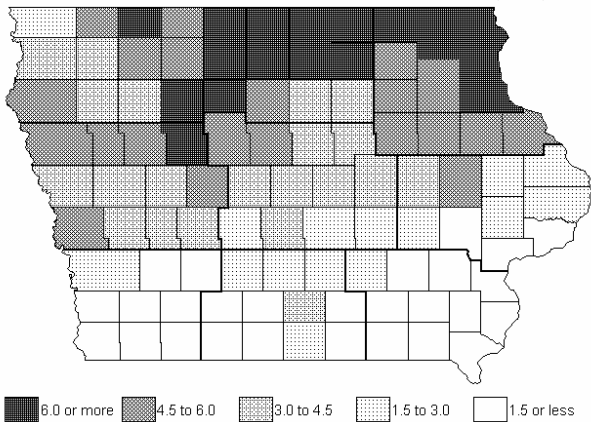
The majority of the month's precipitation came from one storm event on the 15th-16th. This storm brought two or more inches of snow to about the northern two-thirds of Iowa with greatest amounts reported at Britt (8.0 inches) and Lansing (7.5 inches).

Winter Summary. The three winter months of December, January and February averaged 25.5 degrees or 4.0 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 2.46 inches or 0.71 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 23rd warmest and 31st driest winter among 133 years of records.

State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
PRELIMINARY COUNTY PRECIPITATION ESTIMATES, FEBRUARY 2006 (inches)



State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
PRELIMINARY COUNTY SNOWFALL ESTIMATES, FEBRUARY 2006 (inches)



Snow Cover and Frost Penetration for the Month of March

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
Snow cover	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frost penetration	6	7	7	3	4	3	1	1	2	4	2	7

February Weather Summary For Iowa Agricultural Statistics Service Prepared by AWIS, Inc.											
STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION			HDD TOT	HDD DFN	DAYS OF 32 COLD	DAYS OF 28 COLD
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS				
	North West District										
Estherville	48	-16	21	4	0.08	-0.69	4	1,234	-93	28	27
Sioux Center	56	-15	25	4	0.43	-0.26	3	1,114	-104	28	26
Spencer	54	-20	22	2	0.06	-0.63	2	1,206	-60	28	26
Spirit Lake	51	-13	20	3	0.15	-0.57	4	1,258	128	28	27
North Central District											
Britt	53	-15	19	-2	0.41	-0.50	5	1,284	32	28	27
Humboldt	54	-15	21	-1	0.54	-0.25	4	1,220	-19	28	27
Mason City	54	-20	22	4	0.16	-0.70	4	1,211	-87	27	26
Northwood	52	-18	20	4	0.42	-0.34	4	1,260	-81	28	28
North East District											
Decorah	54	-24	24	4	0.45	-0.37	4	1,142	-100	28	27
Dubuque	59	-16	24	3	0.31	-1.01	3	1,149	-79	26	25
Elkader	59	-26	22	0	0.53	-0.64	6	1,201	123	28	27
Independence	58	-17	23	3	0.39	-0.75	4	1,182	77	28	27
Waterloo	59	-17	24	5	0.13	-0.95	5	1,142	-118	27	26
West Central District											
Audubon	63	-14	25	0	0.30	-0.64	2	1,124	-9	28	27
Carroll	65	-12	25	3	0.23	-0.57	4	1,115	-85	27	27
Castana	63	-11	25	1	0.12	-0.50	4	1,116	-130	28	27
Guthrie Center	63	-14	25	3	0.15	-0.91	2	1,107	-65	28	26
Harlan	65	-10	26	2	0.28	-0.52	5	1,081	-130	28	27
Jefferson	65	-11	25	4	0.36	-0.44	5	1,104	-96	27	26
Logan	67	-10	27	3	0.17	-0.64	3	1,062	-80	28	27
Rockwell City	59	-13	23	1	0.73	0.03	4	1,165	-12	28	27
Sioux City	60	-12	26	3	0.16	-0.55	4	1,089	-72	27	27
Central District											
Ames	64	-14	27	6	0.18	-0.75	3	1,070	-163	27	25
Boone	64	-15	25	3	0.46	-0.60	5	1,128	-66	28	27
Des Moines	63	-7	29	5	0.03	-1.08	1	1,001	-129	25	22
Eldora	59	-14	23	3	0.33	-0.62	4	1,172	-64	28	27
Marshalltown	63	-16	25	4	0.07	-1.00	3	1,109	-91	27	25
Newton	63	-10	25	1	0.16	-0.88	3	1,124	-25	26	26
Perry	64	-12	25	4	0.15	-0.66	4	1,113	-95	27	26
Toledo	63	-16	23	3	0.13	-0.80	3	1,168	-56	28	26
East Central District											
Cedar Rapids	63	-16	25	3	0.23	-0.79	4	1,114	-63	26	25
Davenport	61	-9	28	4	0.52	-0.42	4	1,034	-96	26	25
Iowa City	64	-7	29	3	0.48	-0.48	3	1,015	-80	25	24
Lowden	62	-13	24	3	0.61	-0.70	5	1,146	-29	28	26
Maquoketa	59	-14	23	3	0.48	-0.58	4	1,162	-56	27	26
Muscatine	63	-10	28	2	0.54	-0.53	3	1,033	-213	27	24
South West District											
Clarinda	66	-5	27	3	0.17	-0.75	5	1,051	-63	27	26
Glenwood	69	-7	28	4	0.07	-0.72	2	1,015	-76	28	27
Oakland	64	-8	27	5	0.18	-0.62	3	1,053	-110	28	27
Red Oak	67	-6	28	2	0.05	-0.96	2	1,015	-53	28	24
Sidney	67	-5	29	3	0.02	-0.82	1	1,012	-60	28	24
South Central District											
Allerton	63	-5	28	3	0.25	-0.72	2	1,041	-303	28	25
Beaconsfield	64	-6	27	3	0.01	-0.75	1	1,061	-67	28	26
Chariton	63	-6	26	2	0.49	-0.56	4	1,097	-38	27	26
Indianola	63	-9	27	2	0.20	-0.82	3	1,068	-52	27	25
Leon	66	-5	28	3	0.33	-0.66	2	1,040	-80	27	26
South East District											
Bloomfield	61	-6	28	0	0.30	-0.70	4	1,040	-7	27	27
Burlington	63	-3	31	5	0.28	-0.88	3	934	-138	25	21
Ottumwa	61	-7	28	3	0.33	-0.58	4	1,020	-73	25	24

Precipitation (rain, melted snow or ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more. Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
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